

Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 2, 43, 45, 46, and 52 to 57, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purgative composition, comprising:

(i) at least one water-soluble sodium salt;

(ii) at least one water-soluble minimally degradable sugar in an amount, wherein the total weight of water-soluble minimally degradable sugar in the composition is from about 1 to about 3 times the weight of the sodium salt in the composition;

(iii) at least one water-soluble potassium salt, wherein the weight of the water-soluble potassium salt in the composition is from about 0.05 to about 1 times the weight of the sodium salt in the composition; and

(iv) at least one water-soluble magnesium salt, wherein the weight of magnesium salt in the composition is from about 0.1 to about 10 times the weight of the sodium salt in the composition;

wherein the minimally degradable sugar is selected from the group consisting of xylose, xylotriose, xylooligosaccharides, fructooligosaccharides, fructosans, galactooligosaccharides, equivalent oligosaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The purgative composition ~~compositions~~ of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble sodium salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, sodium gluconate, sodium citrate, sodium aspartate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble potassium salt is selected from the group consisting of potassium chloride and potassium tartrate.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble magnesium salt is selected from the group consisting of magnesium sulfate, magnesium citrate and magnesium phosphate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one composition or additive selected from the group consisting of a flavouring ingredient, a detergent stool-softening agent, citrate, lactate, acetate, a trace element ~~elements~~ and a nutritional element ~~elements~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1 in the form of, or formulated as, a soup or soup-like composition, tablet, gel cap, capsule or sachet.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The purgative composition of claim 1 in the form of a hypertonic aqueous solution.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The purgative composition of claim 8 in the form of a unit dose having a volume of from about 0.2 to 0.5 L and wherein the sodium salt or salts are present in an amount from about 1 to about 10 g per unit dose, the minimally degradable sugar or sugars in an amount of from about 2 to about 20 g, the potassium salt or salts in an amount of from about 0.5 to about 5 g and the magnesium salt or salts in an amount of from about 1 to about 10 g per unit dose of the purgative composition.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of inducing purgation of the colon of a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a purgative composition of claim 1 in an amount effective to induce purgation of the patient's colon.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of inducing a pre-surgical lavage ~~purgation~~ of the colon of a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to the patient a purgative composition of ~~a purgative of~~ claim 1 ~~[[8]]~~ in an amount effective ~~for pre-surgical lavage to induce purgation~~ of the patient's colon.

Claims 12 to 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (currently amended): The composition of claim 1, wherein the minimally degradable sugar comprises a ~~[[is]]~~ xylose.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, wherein:

- (i) the at least one water-soluble sodium salt comprises sodium chloride;
- (ii) the at least one water-soluble minimally degradable sugar comprises a xylose;
- (iii) the at least one water-soluble potassium salt comprises a potassium chloride; or ~~[[and]]~~
- (iv) the at least one water-soluble magnesium salt comprises magnesium sulfate.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more ~~further~~ compositions or additives ~~additive~~ selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of a citrate, a lactate, an acetate, a calcium, a zinc, a Vitamin B complex, a thiamine, a Vitamin A, a Vitamin C, a Vitamin E, a folic acid and a biotin.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, further comprising a detergent stool-softening agent.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, further comprising a sodium picosulfate.

Claim 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1, further comprising a bisacodyl.

Claims 45 to 46 (canceled)

Claim 47 (currently amended): The purgative composition of claim 1 in the form of:

(a) a tablet, or

(b) a wherein the tablet comprising ~~comprises~~:

a core comprising the sodium, potassium and magnesium salts; and
a coating comprising the minimally degradable sugar(s);
wherein the coating surrounds the core.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the purgative composition is administered in combination with a purgative selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of a sodium picosulfate and a bisacodyl.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the purgative composition is administered in combination with a purgative selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of a sodium picosulfate and a bisacodyl.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein:
the at least one water-soluble sodium salt ~~is selected from among~~ comprises a sodium chloride, a sodium gluconate, a sodium citrate ~~[[and]]~~ or a sodium aspartate;

the at least one water-soluble potassium salt ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a potassium chloride; or ~~[[and]]~~

the at least one water-soluble magnesium salt ~~is selected from among~~ comprises a magnesium sulfate, a magnesium citrate ~~[[and]]~~ or a magnesium phosphate.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, wherein:

the at least one water-soluble sodium salt ~~is selected from among~~ comprises a sodium chloride, a sodium gluconate, a sodium citrate ~~[[and]]~~ or a sodium aspartate;

the at least one water-soluble potassium salt ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a potassium chloride; or ~~[[and]]~~

the at least one water-soluble magnesium salt ~~is selected from among~~ comprises a magnesium sulfate, a magnesium citrate ~~[[and]]~~ or a magnesium phosphate.

Claims 52 to 57 (canceled)

Claim 58 (new): The purgative composition of claim 1 in the form of, or formulated as, a medicament.